

ORGAN OF HOPE

VOL. SIX

Here you go, the seventh installment of Organ of Hope. From now on, all excess is chopped off, and this zine is going to be strictly what I like to and probably do best...talk about bands and records. As always communication and feedback is wanted and encouraged, so please get in touch. Record and tape trading is the shit, so send lists too.

Thanks. - Rob

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Thanks and respect to the following: Chris Lake, Stuart Schrader and Dave Hyde, the only three people I know that give as much of a shit as I do. Yeah.

THE PLAYLIST

(I'll try and keep my comments short...)

1. LIXOMANIA 7"

- total fucking ripper! I LOVE this shit, thank you Brazil!

2. STATE CHILDREN "Bomb Shelter for the Money Making!" flexi

- totally inept, but totally sick...a monkey could play the bass lines, but this just kills.

3. JUDGEMENT - all

- listen to "The Mad Dog" and try to tell me this band doesn't make you pump your fist when you're alone!

4. SOD s/t 7"

- so sloppy but so powerful...reminds me of VOID, but better.

5. DISCHARGE "Hear Nothing..." LP

- can YOU hear the sound of an enormous door slamming in the depths of hell? Don't ask, just listen.

6. THE CLAY "The Middle East Combat Area" 7"

- The guitar player is wearing a Zorro mask on the B-side label. I love it, you love it.

DISTORT RECORDS LABEL

Well, after much talk, I've finally got my act together and started a label. My primary goal in doing this is most obviously, to release bands that I like, but more specifically foreign bands that receive little recognition and/or are relatively unknown here in the States. With that said, the first release on Distort will be the debut EP from Japan's LAUKAUS. Since most people haven't heard their killer demo, here's the run down. LAUKAUS play total '82 style Finnish hardcore a la any of the great Propaganda Records bands. They sing and write lyrics in Finnish to boot! If you're into raw Finnish HC, then you should be getting this record. This record will be out in a couple months, so be on the lookout, or even better, order one direct from me! The second Distort release is also set. Although a bit longer away than the impending inaugural release, the second record will be the new EP by Brazil's BESTHOVEN. In case you don't know, BESTHOVEN are a long running d-beat raw punk band, but they definitely have a Brazilian sound. This record will be a co-release with a good friend's label, Game of the Arseholes. This record will also be done in a small pressing on the European front, by Otto of Selfish/Forca Macabra fame. Needless to say I am really psyched and super grateful to be doing both of these records. There are some other things in the works, so if you're digging the bands you're reading about in this zine, you'll definitely be interested, so get in touch!

TOP 5 THINGS I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO...

1. SELFISH - US TOUR

Word on the street is that Finland's best Japanese hardcore band will be doing a US tour in November, and I couldn't be happier about the news. Continuing the influx of great international touring bands, this may be the best one yet. This band has gotten infinitely better over the years, and they were no slouch to begin with, even in their Dis-esque days. Their recent full length CD, "Burning Sensation" on H:G Fact (recorded at the legendary studio Our House in Japan!) totally blew me away when I first heard it. I expected it to be good, but it far exceeded my expectations and turned out to be great. I can only hope that SELFISH can repeat this feat with their live performance. If you're not already into this band, pick up their CD or LP (just out on vinyl), and get stoked on them so you're ready when they come around.

2. MUSTANG "Free Style" LP/CD

So far, all three EP releases by Japan's MUSTANG have been exceptional. They stand up there with JUDGEMENT, FORWARD, PAINTBOX, etc. as one of the best burning style hardcore bands in Japan (not that there are really any bad ones!) However, like their brother bands from Hakodate-City, CRUDE and ETAE, they remain relatively unknown and unappreciated outside of Japan. I am anticipating the release of this record not only because I can't wait to hear a full length album's worth of new songs from a great band, but also because my friend and the man behind the great Deadalive Records will be releasing the vinyl version of this record, released on CD by Straight Up Records of Japan. By the time this zine is completed, and anyone besides myself is reading this, I will thankfully have most likely heard this record. But as of now, I am still eagerly anticipating its release. Oh yeah, as par for the course with most Burning Spirits records, the cover art leaves a little to be desired. Or maybe it's cool? I haven't decided yet.

3. FRAMTID 12"

One of the absolute best bands to emerge from anywhere in the past couple of years, Osaka, Japan's FRAMTID are one of my favorite current bands. Their first EP, aptly titled "8 Track EP" is a total classic and I'm sure will make my and others Top 10 EP's of the decade list in 2010. Their newest demo, "Consuming Shit and Mind Pollution", released on guitar player Jacky's Crust War Records, is totally off the hook. If you're at all into crust, d-beat, Japanese punk, or raw DIY hardcore, and you're not listening to this band already, then you're not really into any of aforementioned. With that said, if their new demo is any indication, their first 12" release (I'm not positive if it's going to be an LP or a 12", but I'm pretty sure it's a 12") will be totally amazing. It will almost surely be released on Crust War Records, so keep your eyes and ears open for this one.

4. DEFECTOR - debut EP

DEFECTOR are a new band from Japan featuring the bass player and drummer of the unfortunately now broken up GLOOM. Although I haven't heard any recorded material from them yet (they haven't officially released anything yet, as far as I know), I was fortunate enough to see a live video of them, which was of course, killer. If their live show is any indication, which it should be, their debut EP should be great. From what I've heard, it will be released on Crust War Records. As if this need be said, the music is total distorted, drunk with party, DISCHARGE/DISORDER influenced crust, which when hailing from Japan, is usually a proven formula for success in my book.

5. DISCLOSE "Apocalypse of Death" 12"

Anyone who knows me, and I'm sure any even marginally deductive reader of this zine knows that I'm a huge DISCLOSE fan. Although I was blown away the first time I ever heard them, and have been continually impressed with this band with each release that I've gotten, lucky for me they have just gotten better with age. As you may have already read, their "Nightmare or Reality" 12" absolutely floored me the first time I ever heard it. Almost to the same degree, I was rocked when I got an advance copy of this, their upcoming 12". After numerous (and I mean like 100) listens to the tape, I can safely say that it hasn't had the same impact as "Nightmare..." did. However, that does by absolutely no means, mean that this isn't one bad motherfucker of a record that you need to own. Too bad they had to reject the first test pressings, because that just means that I'm going to have to wait a little longer to hear these songs on vinyl, and check out what I'm sure will be another classic black and white layout.

RECORD REVIEWS

(I'll keep this short and sweet, since these are all new records which are still relatively available. Thus, quit reading this, go buy them, and find out for yourself.)

V/A "Killed By Hardcore Vol. 3" LP

The newest and best installment thus far in the series. Personal highlights include BANNLYST, NO THANKS, GAUZE, ABSURD, and GAS. But of course every track is a ripper. As usual, very nice sleeve and insert. Also awesome is the inclusion of a track off the PATRIOTS "Land of the Free" EP, maybe the last excellent yet still relatively unknown to many early US hardcore EP. If you really need someone to tell you that you should buy this comp., you're in the wrong place, son. (Boot - duh...try a distro.)

BY ANY REASON
WAR IS UNNECESSARY

LIFE
FRAMTID
DISCLOSE

POVERTIES
ABRAHAM CROSS
and SECRET BAND
EXTREME CRUST TERROR

12/8(SAT) at GATE3
DISCHARGE / ¥1,500-
THE CRUST WAR PRESENTS

ATROCIOUS MADNESS "Total Control" 12"

Ah, this one is simple. The best band just got better. This record tops their previous release, the "Spectres of Holocaust" EP, which is masterful in its own right. As noticed by all who listen, the drummer on this 12" is a fucking lunatic. As always, awesome artwork and lyrics that obviously required thought, whether you believe what they sing about or not. There's absolutely no reason for any reader of this zine not to own this, so get to it.

(Wicked Witch, PO Box 3835, 1001 AD Amsterdam, Netherlands)

WORLD BURNS TO DEATH "Human Meat...Tossed to the Dogs of War" 7" & demo

New band from TX featuring Jack Control and some other crazies. Distorted fucked up raw hardcore that reminds me a bit of SEVERED HEAD OF STATE, but in my opinion has more of a profound early HC influence than SHOS. I guess it sounds less "modern," whatever that means. The vocals are crazy, and there's a song called "Acid in the Face of Human Rights" on the demo. Given that and the title of the record, I'd say someone has a way with words. Oh yeah, the demo is the same recording as the EP, just with more songs from the session. Also, inside sources tell me their new material rips, so I can't wait for their upcoming and wonderfully titled "The Sucking of the Missile Cock" 12" on Hardcore Holocaust Records. Basically, essential listening as far as current USHC goes. Hopefully they'll tour. (Prank, you know where to get it...or 1012 Brodie St., Austin, TX 78704, USA)

NEUROOTTISET PELIMANNIT "Sita Saa Mita Tilaa" 7"

New band from Finland that play in the old and great Finnish style. 8 tracks on this EP, and all would have fit nicely on an EP for Propaganda back in the day. No modern shitty Scandi-crust here. If you're into Finnish shit, get this because sadly, there's not enough bands around that sound like this. The sleeve rules too, it's a drawing of a punk holding a gun to the decapitated head of a Nazi laying on the ground below him. I'd love to do a record with this band.

(Self-released - Santrankuja 4, 35600 Halli, Finland)

V/A "Chaos of Destruction Vol 2" 2XLP

Double LP (!!!) compilation of worldwide raw punk bands put together by Kawakami of DISCLOSE. This is Vol. 2, the first one was a triple LP (what?). Anyway, this is undoubtedly worth the 20-25 bucks you'll probably have to pay to order it from Japan. Let me tell you a few reasons why...AGE, NEUROSE URBANA, ABILITY, S.C.D., FRAMTID, DIOS HASTIO, SILENCIO FUNEBRE, and DISCLOSE. And those are just my favorites. There's a slew of other bands on here that are pretty ripping as well. Add the huge fold out sleeve with artwork from each of the bands, and this is one of the best modern compilations you'll get, packaging and content wise.

(Dan-Doh, K-Club, Honmachi 2-1-21, Palms Bld. Bf, Kochi-City, 780-0870, Japan)

5 RECORDS THAT BLEW ME AWAY ON THE FIRST LISTEN (AND STILL DO EVERY TIME...)

GAUZE "Kao O Aratte Denaoshite Koi" LP (XXX Recs.)

My introduction to Gauze came through picking up a used copy of the CD reissue of "Equalizing Distort" on XXX Records about four years ago. I knew of them and about them prior to the purchase, but at that point my interest in Japanese hardcore wasn't the compulsive fixation it is now. In fact, it was limited to a mild GISM fixation and a few other sub par fastcore bands. Needless to say, I found the record to be nothing short of fucking amazing. I quickly sought out the rest of Gauze's recorded material, of course including the 4th LP. I had heard the record in passing many times, but it wasn't until I had a copy of my own and was able to actually listen to it, rather than having it as background music, that I realized what a monumental record it is. First, the artwork and layout. Simple black and white, with Japanese characters ominously gracing the front and back cover. Unless you know, you're not sure what it is...could it be a punk record, could it be MERZBOW? Once you open it up, the inimitable GAUZE logo graces the disc itself (what, you thought I straight up got the vinyl? Ha.) The inside contains lyrics in Japanese and a cool collage of live photos, some from their three American appearances. Simple but effective and attractive packaging. Finally, you throw on the record. First, it's the fastest GAUZE record yet. But that's not a bad thing, not at all. The record blazes, and it is pretty much perfect from start to finish. The drumming and guitar work are absolutely punishing, and easily stand on their own merits, but are only enhanced by the superb recording. Vocals are delivered in trademark style, but seem more urgent than ever this time around, and the back up vocals are perfectly placed. After nearly twenty years as a band, they release what is undoubtedly their finest recorded material. This record is easily in my top 25 punk records of all time, and will probably always get near daily listens as far as I'm concerned. This record totally floored me when I first listened to it, and still does every time I listen it. Track 1 is maybe my favorite track on the album. It begins with a slow drum beat and single riff, then a short build...and then it just explodes into just under two minutes of pure thrash. Track three is also great, sounding more like a "Equalizing..." era tune, and I particularly like the guitar work on this one. A bona fide classic in every aspect.

ABSURD "Blodig Stad" 7" (Bullshit Recordz)

I first heard this record a couple of years ago on a mix tape a friend made for me. At the time, I was already really into Swedish hardcore, just not of the "super rare and never reissued" variety, so needless to say I wasn't listening to the first DISARM and DTAL EP's either. Anyway, as soon as the first song off this record started coming out of my stereo, I grabbed the tape case to check where I was at. "Blodig Stad" is the first song on the EP, and it reminded me instantly of ANTI CIMEX. Simple but tight drumming with about a thousand crash hits per minute and some cool quick rolls. The shouted vocals sounded so fucking awesome, and although this record doesn't boast the best recording, the rawness just makes it that much better. What followed this initial shock was four more ragers of equal quality. The last song "Anarki Nu" (you figure it out) isn't quite as hectic as the others, but still a total gem. Although as I listened to this record for the first time, I was already well versed in the wonder that is ANTI CIMEX and SKITSICKERS, this fucker took me by surprise and I loved it. My friend was kind enough to enclose a copy of the front of the sleeve to the record with the mix tape. It's a picture of a nuclear explosion with some Swedish writing at the top and ABSURD in a crude stencil at the bottom. Shit, what more could you ask for? From that first day on, I was on a quest to get this record. Lucky for me, I scored an absolutely pristine mint copy a few months ago, complete with insert. Not surprisingly, the pictures of the band members on the back of the sleeve would suggest that these dudes were super young. Damn, why wasn't I in Goteborg in '82? Oh well. This record is brilliant.

AGENT ORANGE "Your Mother Sucks Cocks in Hell" 7" (Graaf Hendrick)

Different mix tape. Side A, first song - the title cut from this EP. Huge grin comes across my face. Listen to the rest of the record. Rewind. Repeat. I had gotten a friend to tape me this record a couple years ago, after I had seen a picture of the sleeve on the internet. As if that alone, the grim reaper riding a horse with the title of the EP next to it, wasn't enough, the owner of the site described the EP as something like "a fierce Dutch killer, better than B.G.K." That was enough for me. Sure enough, it's way better than B.G.K. ever was...in fact, it's way better than most hardcore records will ever be. This record is in my top 5 HC records of all time, and let me tell you why. Super fast raw hardcore with quick guitar work and awesome gruff vocals. Cool solos, just the right length. Not to mention the obvious punk as fuck attitude. The first song is a total rager, no band could write a better song to start off an EP with. Here comes the second song...holy shit, female back ups! Amazing, they win the best male / female trade off hands down, no contest. The soloing in the second song, "Lingerie," totally kills. After I had heard the third and fourth songs on the record, "Feminist" and "Nothing," I was convinced. This is the Dutch version of "Raped Ass." Seek out this band at all costs.

BORN AGAINST s/t 7" (Vermiform)

Born Against was a band I knew the name of saw the records of for a really long time before I was ever interested. I was way too busy listening to hollow and macho jock nonsense "hardcore" to care. But the day came when I bought the BORN AGAINST EP, and I'd be a liar if I didn't say that everything about it hit me like a ton of bricks. First, the pictures on the record - the boarded up employment office, a woman in bondage, a monkey in a cage, and a woman killing hens. Interesting juxtapositions, and obviously that was the point. Musically, this record is mess of anger, slurred vocals, and powerful elements of early 80's hardcore with talent. It's no secret that they ripped off ARTICLES OF FAITH and the first C.O.C. LP, but it made for a fuck of a record. Every single song on this record, and I won't get into them all, because you should know them, is fucking great. The lyrics couldn't be more right on, for 1990 or for now. Despite the later folly of this band and its members, this record had a profound impact on me and the formulation of some of my feelings on punk and politics, and I feel that it stands the test of time musically as well, without a doubt one of the best records of the 90's.

DISCLOSE "Nightmare or Reality" 12" (MCR Co)

This one will be short and sweet. I love DISCLOSE. Duh. This record came out, and it took me a while, but I got. I knew I would like it without a doubt, but I wasn't prepared for what happened when I dropped the needle on this fucker. It was DISCLOSE alright, still raw as fuck, but with an actual good recording. And the best songs they'd ever written by far. "Fear of the Nuclear Age," the first song on this 12", is my favorite DISCLOSE song. No doubt about it. This record is head and shoulders above anything else they have ever done. So what do you do when one of your favorite bands far outdoes themselves with their newest release? You stop pissing yourself and listen to it eight more times straight through. If you like DISCHARGE, and you don't like at least this DISCLOSE record, you're out of it, no question. Add to this mastery an awesome layout and a cool four page insert with a detailed discography and awesome liner notes from Kawakami. I'll never get tired of this one.

Here's what Tim Yo had to say about the superb and unhealthy rare GUDON flexi, in MRR #25, May-June '85...

GUDON - flexi

The production on this classic transforms a garage thrash band into a psychotic mess. Atonal thrash with inhuman vocals put through some kind of mixing madness, producing totally crazed rock-n-noise. Twisted! (TY)

(No address, JAPAN)